and the State Governments. Funds are available in various Ministries of the State Governments. They have to handle the situation. We are giving them inputs. We are there to give them inputs.

Chinese incursions across LAC

*88. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of Chinese incursions across LAC into the Indian side;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the Chinese Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such Chinese incursions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly take up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the main reasons for these incursions and intrusions is the non-demarcation of the Line of Actual Control along the border. Whereas China has resolved its boundary issues with all the other neighbours, it has not yet done so with India. Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is: What is the progress that has been made in the meeting that he has held with China for demarcation of the boundary? Sir, in the absence of demarcation, does the Minister feel that China is pursuing an aggressive border-management policy to lay claims on disputed areas along the LAC.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there are disputed areas in the claim of each side. For instance, India thinks that 38,000 sq. kms. of areas are under illegal occupation of China. In addition to that, 5,000 + kilometres which Pakistan seceded to China from the Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir area. Similarly, they think that the entire Arunachal is their territory which we are not agreeing upon. Nobody agrees. Therefore, there are different perceptions why these transgressions are taking place. It was decided in 1993 that we will establish a mechanism and through that mechanism we will try to resolve boundary issues, but pending that, without prejudice to the respective rights, we will try to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. It was done in 1993, and 1996. It was taken to further stages. In 2003, when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited China, at that point of time, it was decided that both sides should appoint two special representatives of both the Prime Ministers to discuss these issues and they will arrive at a final stage. There are three stages. The first stage is over where the political parametres and guiding

principles have been agreed upon after holding five meetings. Up to now, there have been 12 meetings between the two special representatives; the last one was in September, 2008, in Beijing. This is going on. It is taking time. As the hon. Member wanted to know why it is happening, there are different perceptions about the entire area, the Middle Sector, Eastern Sector, Western Sector. We consider that these are our areas and they consider that these are their areas. Therefore, in 2000, my distinguished predecessor, Shri Jaswant Singh, suggested that let us exchange maps delineating our perceptions in the map itself. Progress is not very bright, but there has been some improvement in the Middle Sector. Maps have been exchanged and the areas of dispute have been identified. In the Eastern Sector and in the Western Sector, these exchanges are yet to take place. As has been mentioned in the text of my reply that whenever these transgressions take place, there is an established mechanism where we take up these issues and we try to rectify.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, according to reports, China can now mobilise forces on the Tibetan borders within weeks. That is because of huge overhaul in terms of infrastructure on the Chinese side. But, unfortunately, Sir, the same has not happened and India has not kept pace. In fact, when the Prime Minister visited Arunachal, he also made a commitment of improving the highways and having an airport, Sir, the lack of border infrastructure can hamper any future troop mobility. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister what specific plans do we have on these projects which are aimed at improving the infrastructure and connectivity along the Sino-Indian: border?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is true that the infrastructural facilities available on that side of the border are much improved compared to that of ours. To rectify it, it has been decided that 13 operational roads will be constructed on a priority basis. These are expected to be completed by 2012. In addition to that, from Tai Wang onwards, trans-Arunachal highway will be constructed. In respect of the airports, a number of places, including some places which are closer to border – the entire area is the border, but closer to border – including, Pasighat and certain other places, have been identified and the progress is going on. In addition to those certain operational roads, the Ministry of Home, the Department of Surface Transport and also the Border Roads Organisation and the Ministry of Defence are also engaged in construction of some roads, and we are giving priority to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Hotel accommodation for Commonwealth Games

*81. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the exact position regarding availability of approved rooms in both star and budget category hotels in Delhi as against reported demand of 50,000 approved rooms, keeping in view the 2010 Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether DDA has sent any proposal to his Ministry to increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of all existing as well as upcoming hotels in the city;